vernment alongwith resources since 1992-93 as per the recommendations of the National Development Council;

(ii) Rhino is placed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thus getting the highest level of protection;

(iii) Trading in Rhino parts and products is also banned by law;

(iv) Cooperation of police, BSF, DRI and Army is also taken, as and when required, in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders;

(v) India is a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endan' gered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and abides by the regulations of international trade in endangered specie of animals and articles. Under the provisions of the convention Rhino is covered under Appendix I of CITES which bans international trade in the species, products and derivatives.

(vi) With a view to providing alternative home for Rhinos and also to rehabilitating them in their erstwhile habitat, schemes for 'Rehabilitation of Rhinos' has been started in Dudhwa National Park and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.

(vii) Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitats are being implemented.

(viii) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.

(ix) Regional and sub-regional offices on wildlife preservation are set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(x) There is a scheme for payment of reward to the informers, which among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.

(xi) A Committee set up by this Ministry to look into the issues related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products has recommended specific measures to deal with this problem which has been referred to the State Government for their comments and necessary action.

## Distribution of Pattas to farmers in Gujarat

5446. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to distribute pattas for the farmers who had occupied forest land in Gujarat;

(b) if so, how many hectares would be turned into agricultural land; and

(c) what are the conditions on which this sanction has been given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Two proposals had been received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the State Government of Gujarat for regularisation of encroachments taken place over 10,900.47 ha. and 39,750.59 ha. of forest land in various districts of Gujarat, Formal approval for the proposal involving regularisaton of encroachment over 10,900.47 ha. of forest land has been accorded by the Ministry on 10.11.94. This proposal of the State Government has been approved subject to certain conditions which *inter alia* include demarcation of forest area to be regularised in favour of individual encroachers and raising of compensatory afforestation in a phased manner by the State Government. In respect of the other proposal involving 39,750.59 ha. of forest land, approval in principle has been accorded on 17-10-94.